





FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

**Arizona Early Childhood Summit
Regional Partnership Council Orientation
April 21, 2008**

First Things First

- First Things First – the Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board
- Information on the Initiative, what it will do, what we have done
- System building in Arizona



Arizona Supports Children

- Proposition 203 passed by 52% - a statistical landslide
- 2nd highest amount of money ever raised by a ballot initiative
- Strongest bi-partisan support in the history of ballot initiatives

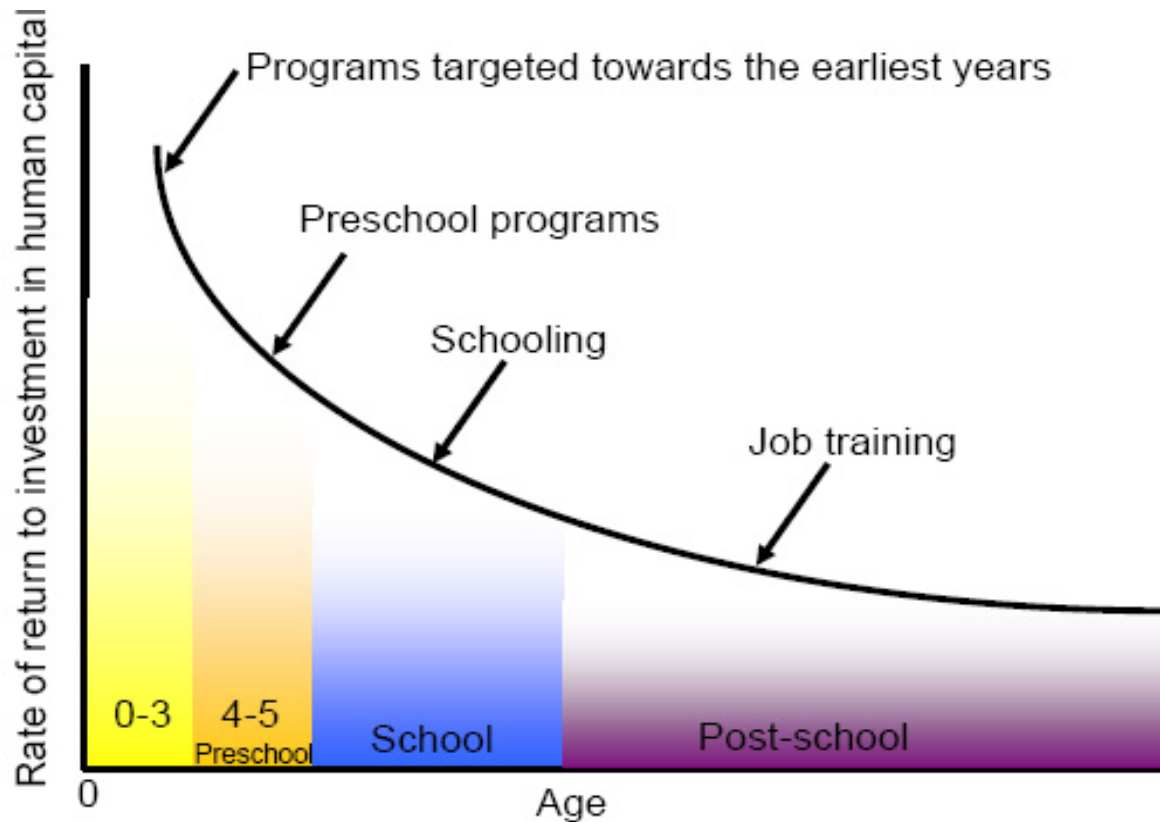


Changing the Future for Arizona Children

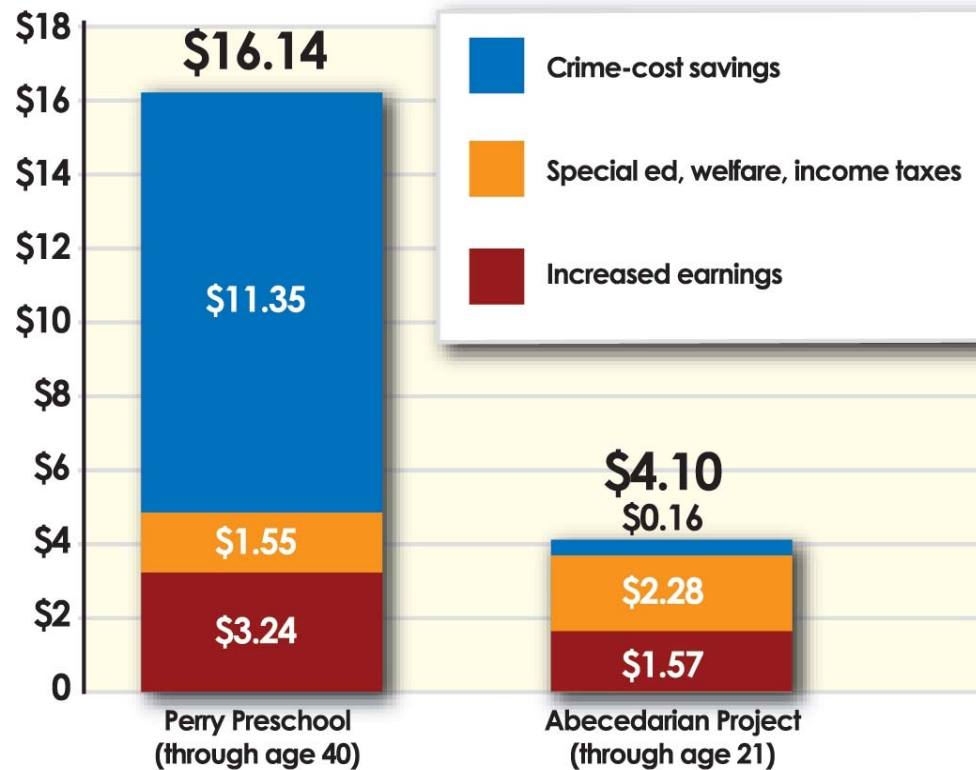
- Participate in the political process and good public policy
- Strong public policy needs to be driven by the latest research
- We need to deliver on our promises to our youngest citizens



Rates of Return to Human Capital Investment (Return to an extra dollar at various ages)



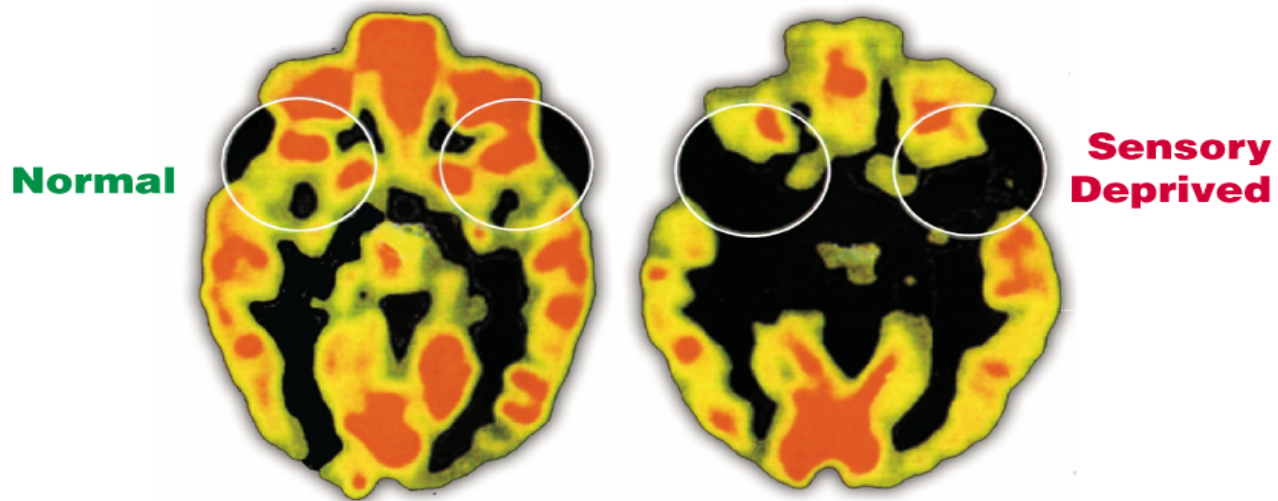
Cost/Benefit for Two Early Childhood Programs (Dollars returned for each dollar invested)



Source: Schweinhart, Montie, Xiang, et al. (2005); Masse & Barnett (2002)

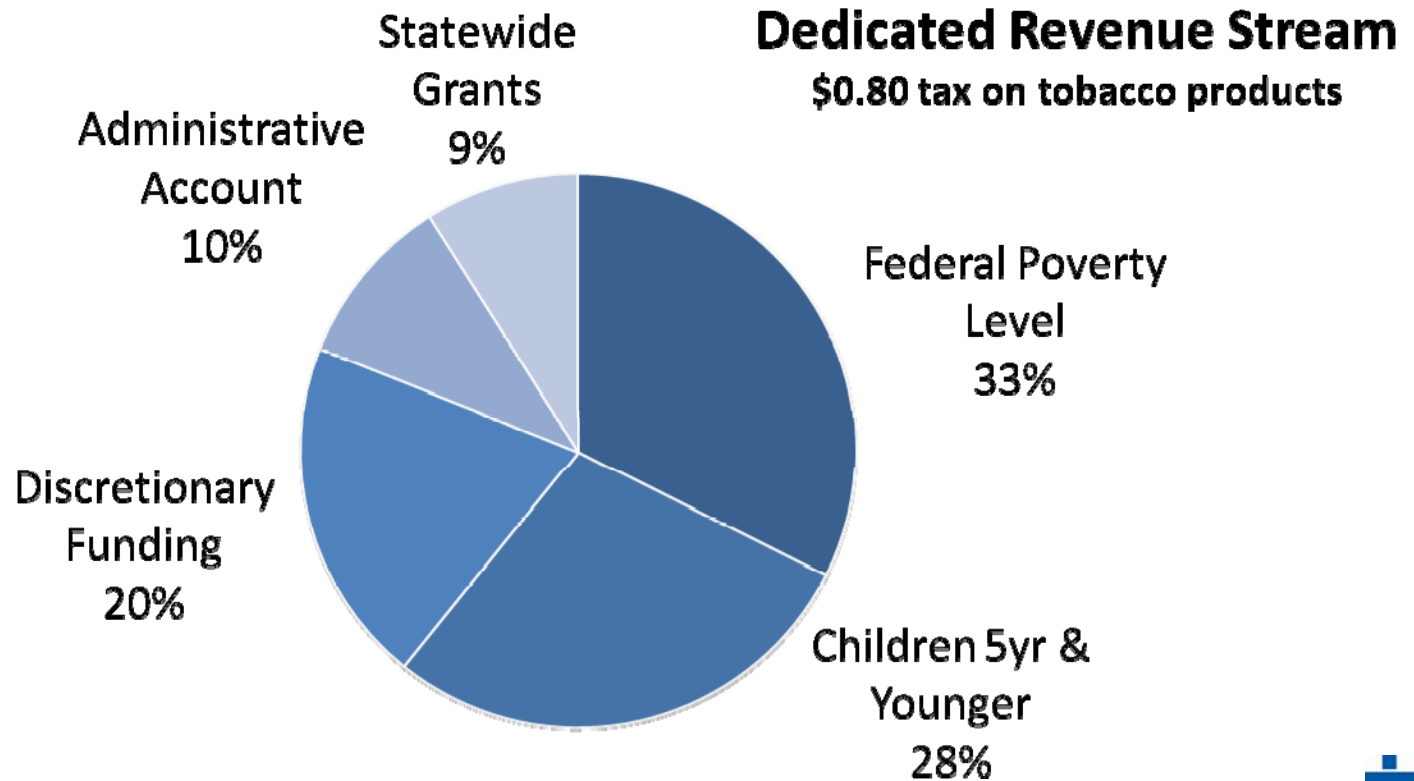


Normal vs. Deprived Brain of a Three Year Old Child



Source: Newsweek, Spring/Summer 1997 Special Edition:
"Your Child: From Birth to Three", pp. 30-31.



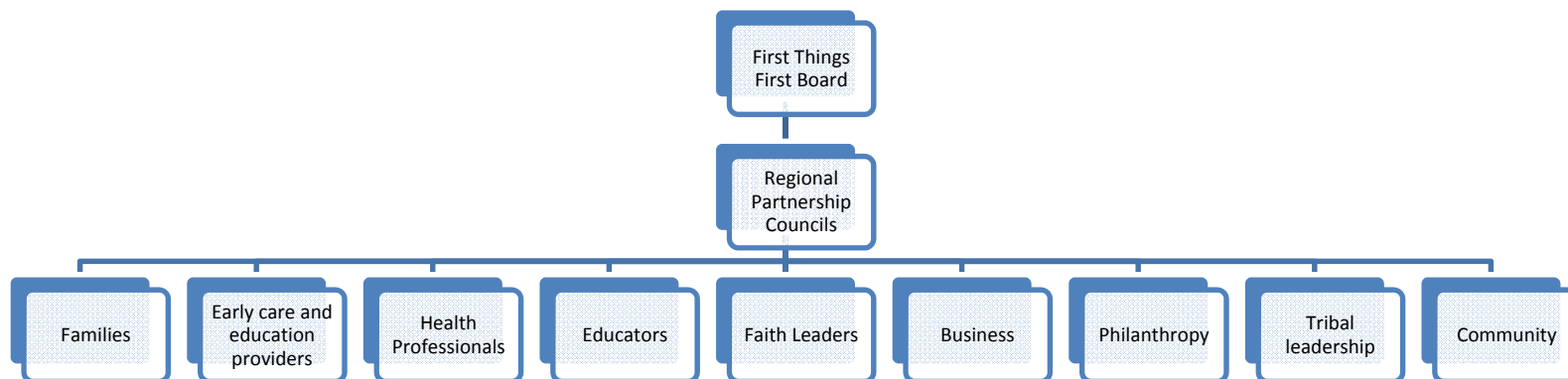


The
Economics

The Science

First Things First
Initiative

Governance Model

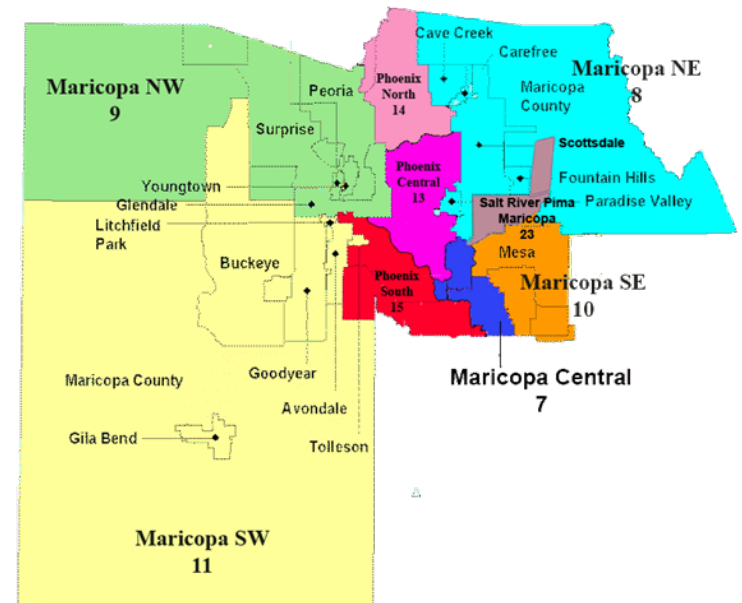
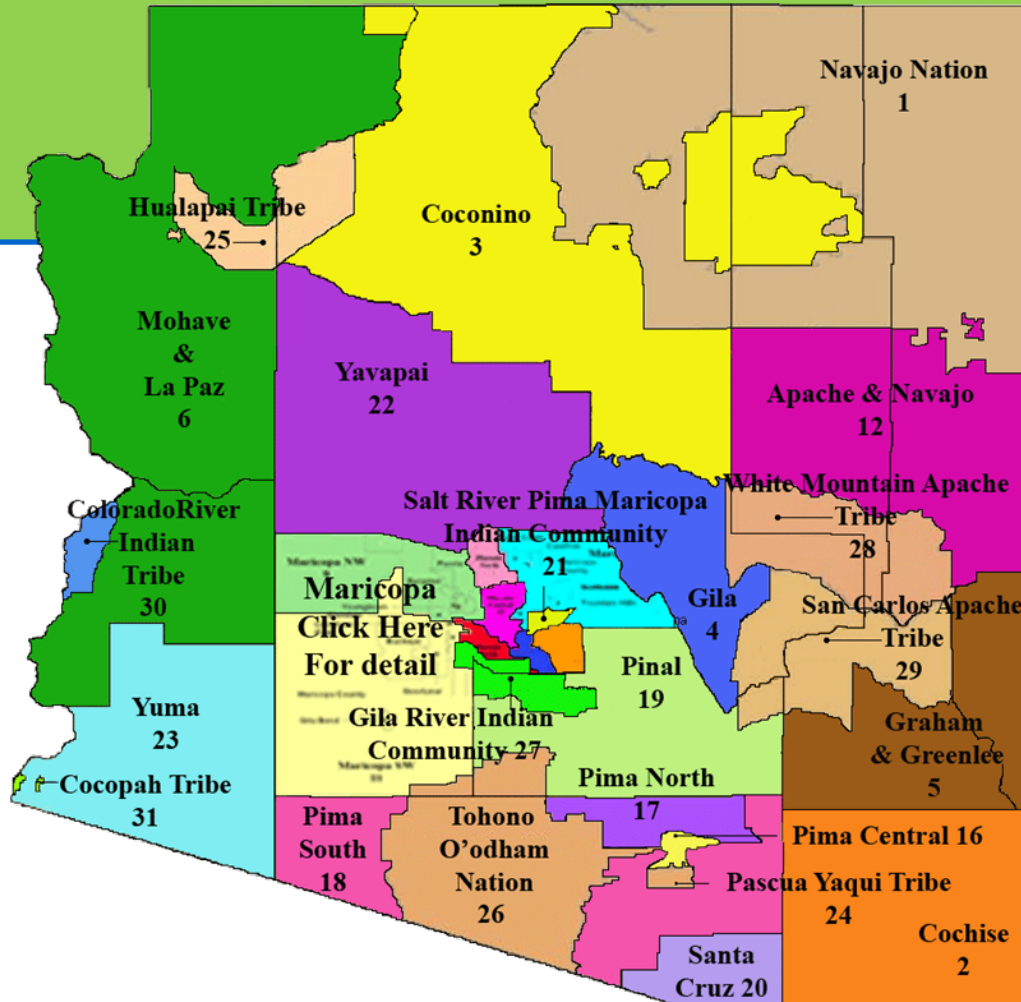


Create a delivery mechanism for the funding to get the services and programs to children and families in their communities

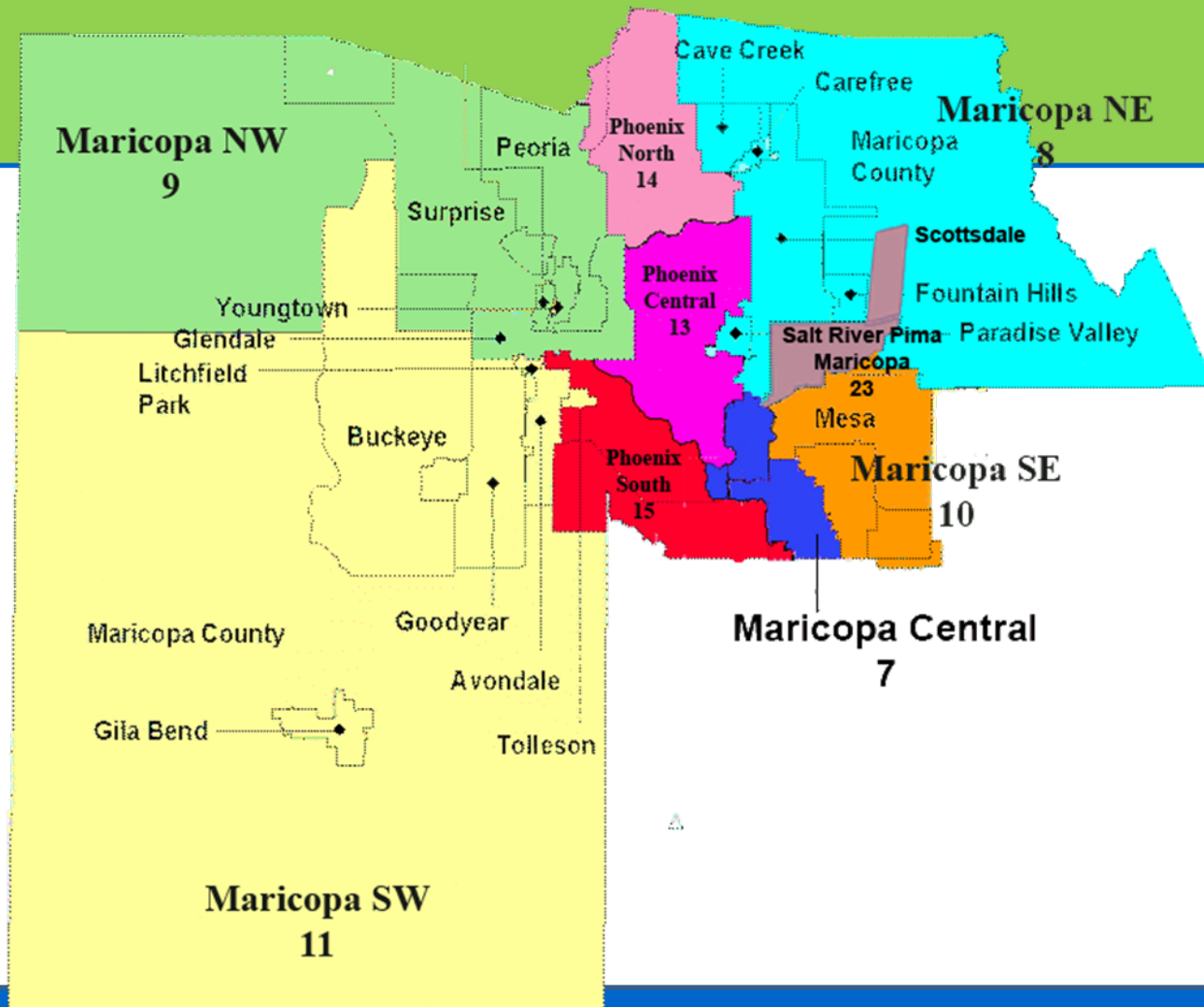
- Local flexibility -- with state accountability
- Regional Partnership Councils appointed for geographic regions throughout Arizona



Regional Partnership Councils Maps



Maricopa County Detailed Map





Improve the **quality** of early childhood development and health programs

Increase **access** to quality early childhood development and health programs

Increase access to **preventative health care and health screenings** for children through age 5

Offer **parent and family support and education** concerning early childhood development and health programs

Provide **professional development and training** for early childhood development and health providers.

Increase the **coordination of early childhood development and health programs** and **public information** about the importance of early childhood development and health.



- Executive Director, Elliott Hibbs and Staff
- Office space
- Accounting mechanism
- Community Forums
- Needs and Assets Assessment



First Things First Vision

***All Arizona children
birth through age five
are afforded
opportunities to
achieve their
maximum potential to
succeed in school and
life.***



The Mission of First Things First

To increase the quality of, and access to, early childhood development and health systems, that ensure a child entering school comes healthy and ready to succeed.



Vision and Mission Attainment

The First Things First vision & mission will be attained through a **comprehensive** early childhood **system** that **values children** as our greatest asset, and recognizes **families** and **communities** at the center of decision making.



System Building in Arizona

- Most state programs target
 - specific children
 - specific communities (low income)
 - specific ages

First Things First is supportive of a wide range of different types of programs and provides resources for all children 0 – 5.



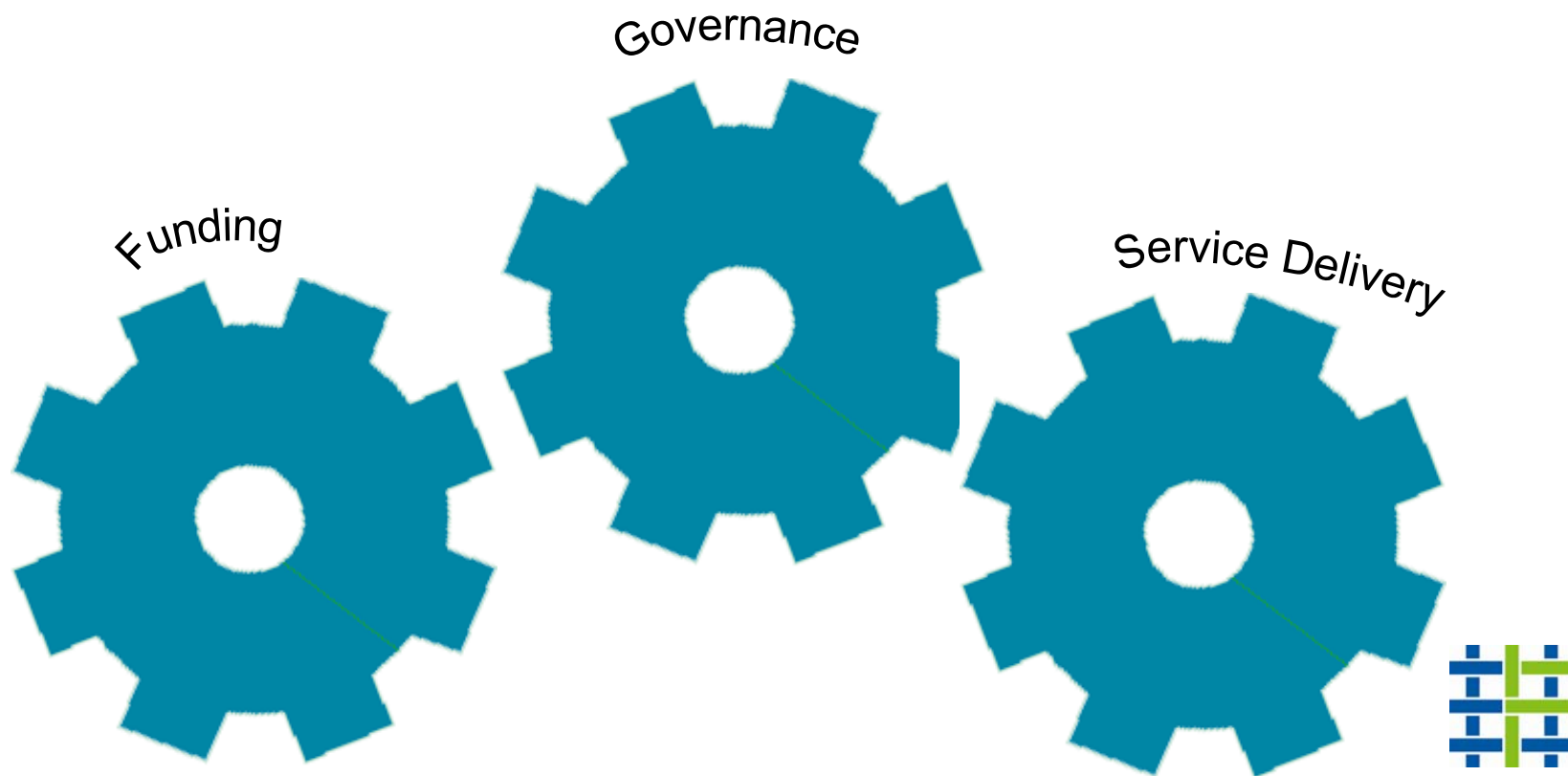
System Building in Arizona

First Things First is designed to create a system that is

- ❖ interconnected**
- ❖ comprehensive**
- ❖ culturally responsive**
- ❖ family driven, and**
- ❖ community-based**



System Building in Arizona



A great time for early childhood and education in Arizona





HRC 2044

- Threatens the efforts to date and our vision and mission.
- Will take money from First Things First.
- Re-direct voter approved funds to make up for budget deficit.



Together, we can make this happen.

